

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:34 p.m. at the Hilton Greater Cincinnati Airport. In his remarks, he referred to Pat Davis, wife of Representative Davis; former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan; and Chairman Kim Chong-il of North Korea. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Proclamation 8020—National Hurricane Preparedness Week, 2006
May 19, 2006

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

During National Hurricane Preparedness Week, private organizations, public officials, and government agencies will highlight the preparations necessary for the new hurricane season that begins on June 1.

Last year, a record number of hurricanes caused unprecedented devastation across an entire region of our country. Our citizens along the Gulf Coast demonstrated their strength and resilience, and individuals across America revealed their compassion and resolve by opening their hearts, homes, and communities to those in need.

After these storms, Federal, State, and local governments have worked to enhance our Nation's ability to respond to large-scale natural disasters. The Federal Government has conducted an extensive review of preparedness and response efforts, and actions are being taken at all levels of government to improve communications and strengthen emergency response capabilities.

To help individuals, families, and businesses prepare for the future, the Department of Homeland Security provides checklists and information on natural disasters and other threats at ready.gov. By working together, government, private entities, and civic and charitable organizations can help increase preparedness for this year's hurricane season.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 21 through

May 27, 2006, as National Hurricane Preparedness Week. I call upon government agencies, private organizations, schools, media, and residents in the coastal areas of our Nation to share information about hurricane preparedness and response to help save lives and protect communities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this nineteenth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 23, 2006]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on May 24. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Proclamation 8021—National Maritime Day, 2006
May 19, 2006

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The United States Merchant Marine plays an important role in ensuring our national security and strengthening our economy. As we celebrate National Maritime Day and the 70th anniversary of the Merchant Marine Act, we pay tribute to merchant mariners and their faithful service to our Nation.

Since 1775, merchant mariners have bravely served our country, and in 1936, the Merchant Marine Act officially established their role in our military as a wartime naval auxiliary. During World War II, merchant mariners were critical to the delivery of troops and supplies overseas, and they helped keep vital ocean supply lines operating. President Franklin D. Roosevelt praised these brave merchant mariners for persevering "despite the perils of the submarine, the dive bomber, and the surface raider." Today's merchant mariners follow those who courageously served before them as they continue to provide crucial support for our Nation's service men and women.